



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 3, 2010

Department of Education

James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room

151 West Ohio Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:04 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Jo Blacketer, Mike Pettibone, James Edwards, Steve Gabet, David Shane, Daniel Elsener, and Neil Pickett were present. Board members Sara O'Brien, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, and Vicki Snyder were not present.

I. **Call to Order**

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Pickett moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **Statement of the Chair**

Dr. Bennett discussed state intervention in chronically underperforming schools (proposed rule changes to Title 511.)

Dr. Bennett said there are many facts and misconceptions regarding this issue. A considerable amount of testimony has been received, and all will be taken into consideration.

When the technical assistance teams were sent to the 23 schools that failed to make AYP for four consecutive years, members of the local communities were also included in the process. DOE personnel, Cambridge personnel, and local community leaders were involved. Schools were invited to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). At the October Board meeting, three school corporations that have signed an MOA made a presentation to the Board.

Dr. Bennett said it is very clearly stated in the law that, prior to intervention, there will be at least one public meeting held in the community where the school is located to discuss the best possible options. While the 23 identified schools have been in the lowest category placement “academic probation” for four consecutive years, those 23 schools have had ample opportunities for local intervention over more than four years.

Dr. Bennett disputed three common misconceptions:

- We have too many schools on the turnaround list and the state is being too aggressive. The fact is this list pertains to only 1 percent of all public and nonpublic schools in Indiana. The federal government says states should be looking at the bottom five percent of chronically failing schools.
- Some believe that the criteria are too difficult, yet 50 percent or fewer of the students in these schools passed both portions of the ISTEP+ exam. Those schools have shown less than 3 percent improvement in students passing ISTEP+. In some cases, less than 1 percent improvement was required.

- There seems to be some misconception that the first thing we are going to do is to jump in and take over schools. The truth is there are five implementation options, only one of which mentions the state taking over the school.

After the public hearing, there will be a host of options, nothing will be off the table, and state intervention will be temporary, not permanent. The proposed rule stipulates any outside manager shall enter into a contract specifying the length of time the necessary services will be provided to students.

As for collective bargaining contracts, affected teachers would still have valid contracts with the district. The contracts just would not follow to a turnaround school. Teachers who remain with the turnaround school will be employed by the outside manager.

Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Director of Turnaround, discussed four schools that will receive quality review visits this year. Outside educators, community members, and DOE staff will conduct the quality review visits which will begin on November 22-23, 2010.

A school turnaround website will be available on Friday, November 5.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Jeffery P. Zaring, Chief of Results and Reform said the Spotlight on Learning focuses on Warren Township, which attributes great student growth to the 8-Step Process for continuous improvement of instruction. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Director of School Turnaround, introduced Dena Cushenberry, Associate Superintendent; Kathy Hench, Data Specialist; and Tim Hanson, Principal, Brookview Elementary School. Ms. Cushenberry, Mr. Hanson, and Ms. Hench discussed the success Warren Township has had.

After three consecutive years of declining scores, and over half of their students failing ISTEP, the corporation knew it was losing and needed to find a way to move the district forward.

The 8-Step Process originated in Brazalport, Texas. It is a system change. It is data driven and results oriented, and it has proven effective across all levels. The 8-Step Process is a Plan-Do-Check-Act and involves the following:

- Data disaggregation.
- Instructional timeline.
- Instructional focus.
- Assessment.
- Tutorials.
- Enrichment.
- Maintenance.
- Monitor.

Ms. Cushenberry said time will be adjusted this year to look at the Common Core standards. Mr. Hench spoke about using data, such as student test scores, to identify instructional groups and to identify weak and strong areas. A data wall was created to give a visual representation of every student. Mr. Hanson said that with the mobility that Warren Township has, the instructional timeline allows the corporation to pick up where the student left off. Instructional focus is intensive as is the timeline and delivery of instructional lessons that target specific needs of each student.

Ms. Cushenberry said assessment data helps teachers determine where each student is at any given point. What to do next is the most important piece of the 8-Step Process are tutorials. Mr. Hanson talked about the monitoring process, which starts with the Superintendent and goes all the way down to each student.

Ms. Shawn Davis, Principal, Longfellow Elementary, Muncie, said the school uses the 8-Step Process. Longfellow Elementary was an underperforming school and did not make AYP for four years. They met and worked with Dr. Hinckley and Pat

Davenport, and teachers from Longfellow Elementary came to Indianapolis for training. This year they made AYP.

Ms. Davis said staff conducted an ISTEP pep rally and made it fun for everyone involved, with activities and games, but it was focused around the standards. The Mayor also came and spoke to the students and told them how great she thought they were and how great of a job she too thought they could do on ISTEP.

Ms. Davis said each student and teacher has a data binder which shows what each students' data looks like. They know where they are and what their goal is.

Ms. Davis talked about a change in culture. In the past there was a lack of motivation on the part of students, teachers, and even parents. This past year they have worked hard at motivating all teachers, students, and parents.

V. Board Member Comments

Mr. Pickett urged everyone to see the movie Waiting for Superman. Mr. Pickett said the movie is impressive and very empowering.

Ms. Blacketor said she too saw the movie Waiting for Superman in South Bend and the common question she is hearing was where did they find parents like that, so engaged at that level. Ms. Blacketor said this seems to be the common question as it relates to the call for action, There is a disconnect with parents and the schools in South Bend.

The Board recessed at 10:27 a.m. and reconvened at 10:38 a.m.

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

A Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of LSA Document #09-355, health services coordinated by RN who does not have BSN.

Mr. Pickett made a motion that this be amended to read the nurse must have a BSN or at least 5-10 years of experience. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. No vote was taken and the Board agreed to hold this matter over to the December meeting in order to gather more data.

- B Mr. Zaring said approval of LSA Document #10-502, accountability measures for school performance and improvement would not be voted on at this time to permit careful consideration of testimony in order to prepare amendatory language. Board members were asked to let Mr. Zaring know if they have any amendments they would like to have drafted.

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by Todd Bess, Associate Executive Director, Indiana Association of School Principals.

VIII. Discussion

Mr. Zaring gave an update on strategic planning and accountability and said a special meeting will be held on November 23 on accountability, AYP, and PL 221. Eight Board members will attend the November 23 meeting and three will participate by conference call. Newly identified schools and our continuing work with the schools that were identified one year ago will be discussed at the November 23 meeting. Board members will be asked to make the P.L.221 category placements and discuss adequate yearly progress results. The agenda for the November 23 meeting will also include a timeline for moving forward and what happens to schools that hit year six in Academic Probation. Mr. Zaring said an RFP will be going out to identify possible managers for schools in the event the Board needs to appoint a manager.

The December meeting will include a legislative preview.

Mr. Zaring discussed assessment issues. The final end of course assessment results for schools and corporations were released to the public on October 21.

First semester test windows are October 18, 2010, to November 12, 2010, December 6, 2010, to December 17, 2010; and January 3, 2011 to January 14, 2011. Online tests taken by December 17 will be reported on January 7, 2011. Mr. Zaring gave an update on accountability.

Zach Foughty, Math Consultant gave an update on high school math curriculum. Mr. Foughty said currently the minimum math requirement for graduation is two years. Core 40 requires three years of study. Research shows states should extend the math requirement to four years. Seventeen states currently require four years of math before high school graduation.

The current Core 40 requirement in Indiana is to have six credits of math, but the department feels this should be changed to say a student needs a math or physics course in every year of high school. According to a survey done by REL Midwest, current research suggests that the type of mathematics courses taken is a more important factor in determining post-secondary success than the number of mathematics courses completed. Mr. Foughty said the higher education people in Indiana say our students are not doing well at entry level math courses in college because a lot of them do not take math in their senior year.

The shift to end of course assessments for our high school tests points out clearly that students who take Algebra I in middle school do very well. However, we also have a significant number of students who complete two years of high school without completing Algebra I.

Mr. Foughty said it is also important that we start looking at middle school math curriculum.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of LSA Document #09-383, Adapted PE. [Agenda item VI, A]
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of LSA Document #09-384, Credit by Demonstration of Proficiency. [Agenda item VI, B]
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of LSA Document #09-357, Repeal Staff-Student Ratios. [Agenda item VI, D]
- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of LSA Document #09-358, ISTEP Applicability. [Agenda item VI, E]
- E. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of LSA Document #09-359, Licensure of ESC Personnel. [Agenda item VI, F]
- F. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of LSA Document #09-382, Curriculum Flexibility. [Agenda item VI, G]
- G. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of LSA Document #09-356, Repeal Core 40 GQE Waiver. [Agenda item VI, H]
- H. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of LDS Document #10-350, Retest Requirement for GED. [Agenda item VI, I]
- I. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Charter School Advancement from the Common School Fund. [Agenda item X, A]
- J. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval to accept applications for construction and technology loans. [Agenda item X, B]

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a proposed consolidation of Prairie School Township and Dewey School Township of LaPorte County. All steps required by law have been completed. The plan complies with applicable law.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mr. Pickett moved for adjournment. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.